

Message Text

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17
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07

AID-05 OMB-01 IO-10 DPW-01 ACDA-05 /082 W
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R 170201Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3707
INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND
CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMIPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2958

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM DA NANG 237 SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON
MARCH 15 BEING REPEATED TO YOU:

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 0237

EMBASSY FOR POL/MIL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, VS
SUBJ: UPDATE ON MILITARY SITUATION IN MR-1 - MARCH 15

1. SUMMARY: INFORMATION REPORTED MAR 15 BY I CORPS TOC SUGGESTS
THAT ON MAR 14, THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS
WAS MODERATE. ARVN TROOPS RECAPTURED A POSITION SOUTHWEST OF
HUE WHICH HAD BEEN LOST THE PREVIOUS DAY. AN AIRBORNE UNIT IN
THE HAI VAN PASS KILLED 29 NVA/VC AND CAPTURED 2 ANTI-AIRCRAFT
WEAPONS, IN THE SECOND CLASH IN THE PASS IN AS MANY DAYS. SOUTH
OF THE HAI VAN PASS, FIGHTING SUBSIDED WEST OF TAM KY IN QUANG
TIN PROVINCE, BUT AN INCREASE IN SMALL ATTACKS IN QUE SON AND
SOUTHERN DUY XUYEN DISTRICTS IN QUANG NAM AND IN THANG BINH DISTRICT
IN NORTHERN QUANG TIN WAS REPORTED. A FEW SMALL ABF'S AND GROUND
ATTACKS WERE REPORTED IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN QUANG TRI (P), NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED ON

MAR 14. IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE, THERE WERE A FEW SMALL GROUND CONTACTS AND NUMEROUS MORTAR AND ROCKET ABF'S. FIGHTING REMAINED AT A MODERATE LEVEL. AT APPROXIMATELY 1200 HOURS OF MAR 14, THE 1ST BATTALION, 3RD INFANTRY REGIMENT REOCCUPIED TRAN LE TIEN BASE, YD665061 IN NAM HOA DISTRICT, WHICH HAD BEEN LOST ON THE MORNING OF MAR 13TH. REPORTED CASUALTIES AS OF THE MORNING OF MAR 15TH WERE GVN 3 KIA, 2 WIA; NVA/VC 18 KIA.

3. ARVN RECONNAISSANCE TEAMS REPORTED SIGHTING 4 NVA/VC TANKS AT YD563230, 1.5 KM NW OF ONG MOUNTAIN, NAM HOA DISTRICT; AND 6 TANKS AT YD751063, 1 KM NW OF KE MOUNTAIN IN NAM HOA (D). ARTILLERY FIRE WAS REQUESTED BUT RESULTS ARE UNKNOWN. ACTIVITY IN THE MO TAU MOUNTAIN AREA WAS LIMITED TO GVN SEARCHES.

4. IN PHONG DIEN DISTRICT, MARINE UNITS WERE SUBJECTED TO LIGHT MORTAR ATTACKS, PARTICULARLY IN THE VICINITY OF TU TUONG BASE; THE MARINES ALSO CONDUCTED SEARCH OPERATIONS WITH NO SIGNIFICANT RESULTS.

5. IN PHU THU, VINH LOC AND HUONG THUY DISTRICTS, RF AND PF UNITS CONTINUED SWEEP OPERATIONS. IN PHU LOC DISTRICT, THERE WERE A FEW LIGHT CONTACTS BETWEEN RF AND PF UNITS AND NVA/VC FORCES. IN SOUTHEASTERN PHU LOC, AT 1150 HRS ON MAR 14TH THE 11TH AIRBORNE COMPANY HAD CONTACT WITH THE NVA/VC AT AT902926, 4.5 KM NW OF THE HAI VAN PASS. RESULTS OF THIS CLASH WERE GVN 1 KIA, 1 WIA; NVA/VC 29 KIA, AND 2 12.8 MM AA GUNS, 1 AK AND SOME DOCUMENTS CAPTURED.

6. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE, LIGHT ABF'S, GROUND CONTACTS, AND ATTACKS AGAINST SUB-SUBSECTORS WERE REPORTED WEST OF TAY SON BASE IN QUE SON DISTRICT. TERRITORIAL FORCES IN DIEN BAN AND DUY XUYEN DISTRICTS REPORTED SEVERAL SMALL CONTACTS WITH NVA/VC, WITH LIGHT CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES.

7. IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE, GROUND ATTACKS AND MORTAR AND ROCKET ABF'S INCREASED IN THANG BINH DISTRICT. THE THANG BINH SUBSECTOR AND SEVERAL SUB-SUBSECTORS RECEIVED ABF'S; THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT WAS AN NVA/VC SHELLING AND GROUND ASSAULT ON 745TH RF COMPANY AT BT245300 IN THANG BINH, RESULTING IN 39 TROOPS REPORTED AS MIA.

8. FIGHTING TO THE SOUTH AND WEST OF TAM KY CITY CONTINUED AT A CONFIDENTIAL

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MODERATE LEVEL. TWO GROUND ATTACKS WERE REPORTED AGAINST GVN TROOPS ON HILL 159 SOUTHWEST OF THE CITY AND THERE WERE SEVERAL SCATTERED CONTACTS WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 12TH RANGER GROUP AND THE 5TH INFANTRY REGIMENT.

9. IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE, SEVERAL SMALL ABF'S AND ASSAULTS ON TERRITORIAL FORCES UNITS AROUND THE PROVINCE CAPITAL WERE REPORTED. TULL UNQUOTE

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